



Mothers Against Drunk Driving  
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April 8, 2013

The Honorable Rick Jones  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Dear Chairman Jones,

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) urges your support and passage of House Bills 4093 and 4131; both of which will eliminate the October 1, 2013 sunset provision of Michigan's .08 law.

In September 2003, Michigan passed legislation establishing .08 BAC (blood alcohol concentration) as the illegal threshold for driving drunk in Michigan. As a result of the .08 law, along with efforts of law enforcement, prosecutors, and increased use of ignition interlocks for convicted drunk drivers, drunk driving deaths in Michigan have dropped by 25 percent. Since August 2005, all states have enacted a .08 law, which contributed to a significant decline in drunk driving deaths across the country.

Even with the proven success of .08 laws in saving lives, some may argue such laws target social drinkers. However, driving with a .08 BAC is not the result of social drinking—it is dangerous and deadly. When drivers reach a .08 BAC, their critical driving skills -- judging distance and speed, steering, visual tracking, concentration, braking and staying in driving lanes -- are severely impaired (Moskowitz, 2000). In addition, at a .08 BAC level, a person is 11 times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than someone who has had nothing to drink (Zador, 2000) (Keall et al, 2004).

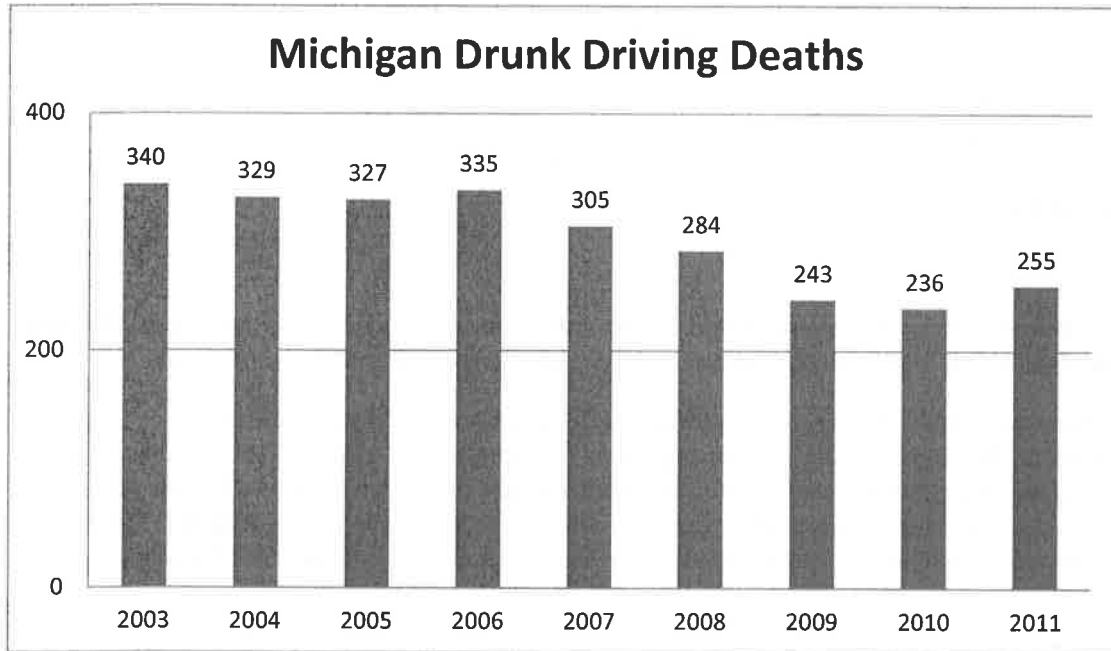
MADD is not against people age 21 and over consuming alcohol. And, Michigan's .08 law does not stop people from drinking alcohol. MADD is against people driving drunk and Michigan's .08 law helps to stop drunk driving. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism notes that to reach a .08 BAC, men must typically consume five or more drinks, and women must typically consume four or more drinks, in about two hours. This dispels the myth that someone can be arrested for drunk driving at .08 BAC after one beer at a ball game or a glass of champagne at a wedding.

MADD encourages you to support and advance HB 4093 and HB 4131. MADD believes that the 25 percent reduction in drunk driving deaths in Michigan is due in a large part to the .08 law. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

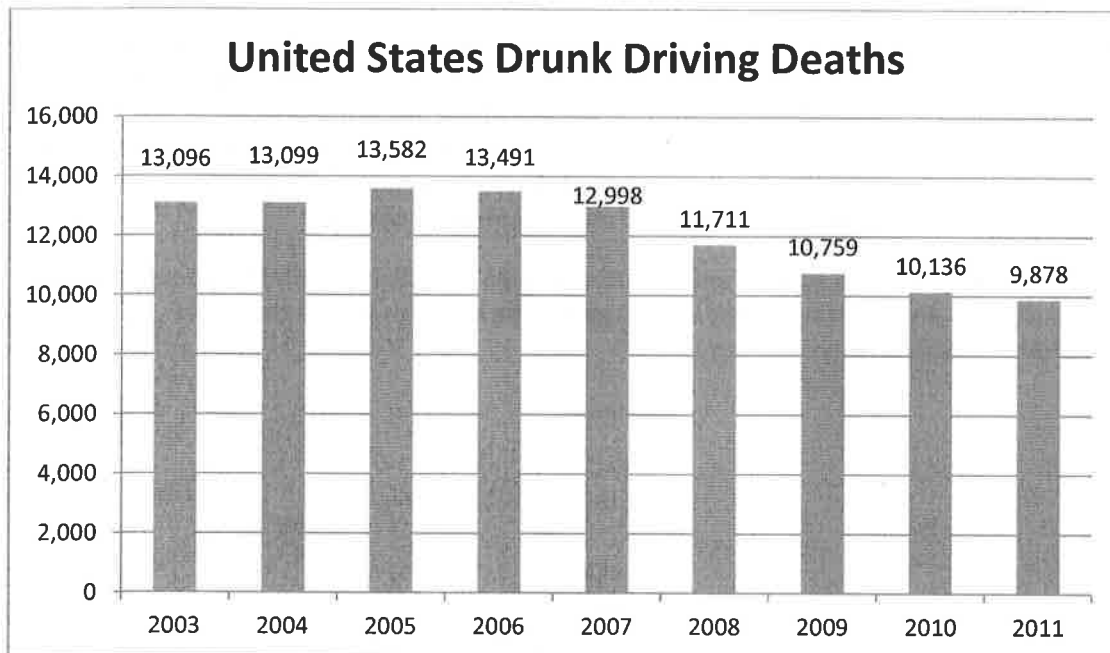
Sincerely,

Jan Withers  
National President  
Mothers Against Drunk Driving

Cc: Members of the House Criminal Justice Committee



Since .08 was implemented in Michigan in 2003, there has been a 25 percent reduction in drunk driving deaths.



Source: NHTSA

Since 2003, there has been a more than 24 percent reduction in drunk driving deaths in the U.S.